

Amendments to the Drawings:

Figure 1b is amended to add arrows from the text to the graph. Figure 2b is amended to replace " 5_{ist} " with " 5_{actual} " and to replace "ja" with "yes". Figure 3b is amended to replace "Fig. 3a" with "Fig. 3b". Figure 4 is amended to replace " 5_{ist} " with " 5_{actual} " and to replace "ja" with "yes".

REMARKS

Claims 11 through 24 are pending in this application. Claims 1 through 10 were cancelled in a prior amendment.

Applicant appreciates the opportunity provided by the Examiner and Examiner's Supervisor for the personal interview of July 23, 2008 to discuss the issues in the outstanding Office Action. In accordance with that interview, Applicants submit the following.

The drawings have been amended as suggested by the Examiners for clarification. Figure 1b is amended to add arrows from the text to the graph. Figure 2b is amended to replace "5_{ist}" with "5_{actual}" and to replace "ja" with "yes". Figure 3b is amended to replace "Fig. 3a" with "Fig. 3b". Figure 4 is amended to replace "5_{ist}" with "5_{actual}" and to replace "ja" with "yes". The Examiners provided that in Figure 1, reference numerals 6 and 14 point to the same feature. Applicants respectfully submit that as specified in the list of reference numbers on page 19 of the application, reference numeral "6" designates the turbocharger, and reference numeral "14" identifies a "compression stage" indicating that turbocharger 6 acts as a compressor. In addition, the Examiners provided that in Figure 5, reference numerals 16 and 24 identify the same feature. Applicants respectfully submit that reference numeral 16 identifies a transfer device and comprises a device 24 as a parameter that describes the speed of the crankshaft.

The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiners for clarification. The paragraph beginning on page 3, line 13 of the application is deleted. The paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16 of the application is amended to delete "the multiplication i in". The paragraph beginning on page 7, line 5 of the application is amended to replace "partial load or thrust" with "full load". The paragraph beginning on page 7, line 17 of the application is amended to replace "5*" with "8". The paragraph

beginning on page 14, line 10 of the application is amended to delete "taking into consideration the multiplication,".

Claims 11 through 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,729,978 to Hiereth et al. ("Hiereth").

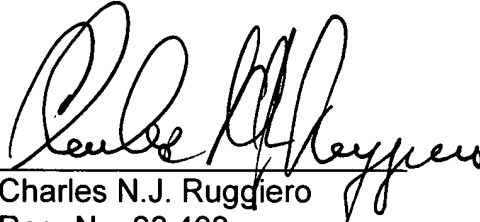
As acknowledged during the July 23, 2008 interview Hiereth fails to disclose or suggest that the hydrodynamic coupling has a moment transfer equal to the minimum outputtable moment M_5 during the braking operation, and that the exhaust gas turbine has a control speed that is produced whereby the control speed is equal to the minimum speed $n_{\min-5}$ that is kept as small as possible during the partial load or thrust operation, as now recited by claims 11, 19, and 21. Support for the amendment to claims 11, 19, and 21 is found at least on page 15, lines 11 – 19.

Accordingly, Hiereth fails to disclose or suggest the features of claims 11, 19, and 21. Claims 12 through 18 depend from claim 11, claim 20 depends from claim 19, and claims 22 through 24 depend from independent claim 21, and, therefore, Applicants respectfully submit are patentable over Hiereth for at least the reasons described above for claims 11, 19, and 21. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, pursuant to the Examiner interview, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance subject to further search. An indication of the allowability of all pending claims by issuance of a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

August 15, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

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